

The Watauga Democrat,

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DARK DAYS.

Saturday and Sunday were two remarkably dark days in this vicinity, but nobody felt disturbed or alarmed.

In some localities in the south-west, however, the phenomena made people decidedly uneasy. The negroes in many places were terrified, and remained in the open air shouting and praying, while their white neighbors felt any thing but serene over the situation.

So far as heard from the darkness was not general, but was confined to small local areas. It was unpleasant, uncanny and oppressive, but not by any means appalling.

Generations ago such a phenomenon would have scared people into fits. The Connecticut legislature was in session more than a century ago, when a dark cloud enveloped it at midday. The frightened members clamored for an adjournment, and one speaker said that the day of judgment had come. One of his bolder colleagues resisted the motion to adjourn, and demanded candles, saying that if they were indeed face to face with that awful day he wanted to be found at his post doing his duty. His coolness quieted the fears of others. The lights were brought in, business proceeded and the cloud blew over.

Unusual natural disturbance in these times do not make men lose their heads. They gaze and investigate. It never strikes them that the world is coming to an end. The brother in black is the chief sufferer from the fear inspired by such scenes. Does this mean that we are growing wiser and more scientific, or does it mean that our spirituality is blunted so that a warning in the skies has no significance.—*Constitution.*

The 51st Congress expired by limitation on Wednesday, March 4. It is a custom, at the close of each Congress for a member of the opposition to offer a resolution of thanks to the Speaker for his fairness and impartiality and for it to be passed by a unanimous vote. On this occasion no Democrat could be found willing to offer such a resolution in favor of Speaker Reed and Major McKinley, of Ohio, a Republican was forced to offer it. Mr. Mills of Texas, demanded the yeas and nays and the resolution was passed by a strict party vote of 152 to 115, every Democrat voting against it. The announcement of the vote was greeted with applause from the republican side and with derisive laughter from the Democratic side. The galleries, which were crowded, did not join in the applause. Every Democrat voted no with emphasis. Representative Cowles, of this district, shouted out when his name was called:—"Put me down for two noes if you can." There is only one precedent for this treatment of Speaker Reed. In the 25th Congress speaker James K. Polk was thanked by a strict party vote of 92 to 75. There were some votes against the resolutions in favor of Speakers Henry Clay, Robert C. Winthrop or Nathaniel P. Banks, but in each case the

resolutions were offered by a member of the opposition and received a majority of the opposition votes. In Clay's case the votes were 144 to 9, in Winthrop's 161 to 12 and in Bank's 119 to 35. Never except in the case of James K. Polk, was a speaker so thoroughly and so overwhelmingly blackballed and never was it done so deservedly as in the case of Speaker Reed. Coming from the Republican side, the resolution means nothing and becomes thorough partisan.—*Lenoir Topic.*

The State Commission for the World's Columbian Exposition.

The Commission created by the legislature for the Columbian Exposition consists of Gov. D. G. Fowle, ex-officio, the seven members of the State Board of Agriculture, and the Managers from this State, who were appointed by the President together with the lady managers, who are also members of the commission will be elected at the first meeting, which will be called by the Governor, and will consist of a President, Vice-President and a Secretary. Treasurer D. W. Bain will be ex-officio treasurer of the Commission. The law also directs that the Commission shall appoint a Superintendent, who will have charge of all matters in the way of getting up the articles to be exhibited, arrange the same and arrange the exhibit.

It is not known when a meeting of the Commission will take place, but we suppose at an early day, as much is to be done. The State is exceedingly fortunate in having so excellent a board of managers, and we may look for a grand display at the great World's Fair in 1893.—*News and Observer.*

Corundum Exhibit.

Messrs. Jenks & Jenks have on exhibition, in the window of Rayson & Smith's drug store on Patton avenue, a specimen of corundum weighing 100 pounds which is much the finest specimen yet discovered. It was found in Western North Carolina. This firm is collecting from the various corundum mines of North Carolina a full line of samples which will be properly marked and exhibited at the World's Fair at Chicago next year at their own expense. Owners of corundum property could greatly encourage this useful and liberal action by forwarding specimens up to ten lbs. in weight, to Messrs. Jenks & Jenks in order to be placed in the exhibit. All such samples will be properly marked and the locality from which they came will be designated. The private collection of the firm, which is large and complete, will be exhibited in connection with the samples that may be sent in. Messrs. Jenks & Jenks are in direct connection with the commercial users of corundum, and are therefore most advantageously situated for the handling of corundum properties. One of the firm is to be at the exposition in Chicago and will attend personally the corundum exhibit.—*(Asheville Citizen.)*

At Burke court, during the trial of a case, a deputy sheriff came across a boozey fellow who wouldn't be reasonable at all, so he pushed him before him within the bar in front of Judge Hoke and said; "Judge, I've brought you a man." "Well," said the Judge, "What is the matter with him?" "Well, sir, he won't sit down and he won't stand up and he won't do nothing." "May be he wants

to roll. Take him out and let him roll, Mr. Sheriff."—*Lenoir Topic.*

A Flying Machine.

A Philadelphia *Times* correspondent says that a remarkable experiment is going on not far from London in a pretty little Kentish town called Bexley. Here a party of American scientists and artisans are constructing an airship which is expected to cross the ocean in seven hours. The inventor, capitalists and workers are nearly all from Bridgeport, Conn., and are confident of success. There are now models which from the table and fly around the interior of the great work-room, describing circles and curves at the will of the sender. If the complete ship does half as well as the model it will revolutionize the world. Every workman is sworn to absolute secrecy, and thus far little or no information as to what the mechanism is has reached the outside world. The superintendent is Hiram Maxim, an American inventor of ability; next to him are Mr. House and son, who are both endowed with high inventive talent.

Mr. Cleveland has lost some of his popularity no doubt. But so great is it he can lose much and yet retain a vast deal. A count in the Indiana Legislature revealed that he had 50 votes, Gray 26, Hill 7, Palmer 7, Voorhees 4, Vilas 1, Turpie 1. He had 4 more votes than all the others combined. This is indeed remarkable when Senator Voorhees and others thought he would stand no showing in Indiana. Gov. Hill is evidently very weak in the Great West. The outlook is still favorable to the nomination of the ex-President.—*Messenger.*

One of the largest ho... in America, if not, in fact, in the world, was reared by a Junction City (Kan) man. The length was 8 feet 9 inches; girth of neck 6 1/2 feet; girth of center of body, 8 feet; width across the hips, 30 inches; weight, 1,532 pounds.

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